

soap box partly filled with sweepings from the hayloft affords them plenty of leg exercise, but unfortunately is also the cause of many a selfish quarrel. In order that my birds keep in good health, I have always studied to vary their fare. Besides canary and millet seed, they receive ants' eggs, Mockingbird food, berries, meal worms, etc. If no other live food is offered, they will even accept small earthworms. In winter the little fat grubs and 'worms' found in goldenrod galls are a welcome treat. — E. D. DOWNER, *Utica, N. Y.*

Ammodramus henslowii. — A Correction. — In 'The Auk' for April, 1889, p. 194, I reported the occurrence at Fort Adams, Newport, R. I., of *Ammodramus henslowii*. My identification was afterwards found to be incorrect, but through oversight the record has not been changed until now. — WIRT ROBINSON.

Leconte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) in Kentucky. — A specimen was killed April 15, 1899, in an old weed grown clover field, about two miles east of Lexington, Ky. It was quite tame, allowing us to approach within five or six feet before attempting to escape. A second specimen was seen July 16, while feeding near the foot of an old 'rock fence' in a dirt lane, the sides of which were overgrown with catnip, wild sage, and various other weeds and young trees.

I believe the species is a rare summer resident and breeder.

This is, as far as I am aware, the first record of its occurrence in Kentucky. — OTTO HOLSTEIN, *Muir, Ky.*

Nesting of Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) in North Dakota. — June 14, 1899, on a broad, alkaline flat, lately a shallow arm of Devils Lake, now nearly dried up, among scant, short grass in a wet, oozy spot, I found the nest of this little known Sparrow, securing the sitting bird and mate with the eggs. An overflow of surface water from a marsh just beyond, during the spring, flows over this flat, at first through a sort of natural ditch, then gradually spreading out till it loses itself in the sticky soil. A bit of ground about three feet square, raised an inch or two from the general level, was sufficient to cause this trifling flow of inch-deep water to divide, forming a tiny island, which was not exactly dry but more nearly so than the immediate surroundings. Here, sunk in the wet earth, and lined sparingly about the sides, but very thickly in the bottom, with fine dried grasses of a wiry nature was the nest, containing five eggs raised by the thick lining well up out of the wet. As the general situation when observed by me was rather dryer than when the nest was first built it must be that the selection of a dismally wet spot was deliberate and, perhaps, indicates the regular custom.

The finding of the nest was purely accidental as, in a more or less vain effort to keep my feet dry, I sprang from point to point, finally alighting with both feet squarely astride the nest, and the sitting bird, as she flut-

tered up and away from between my feet and dropped out of sight in the ragged grass, must have been sorely surprised and startled. The situation was so odd and the eggs so peculiar in appearance that I repaired to my cart, left at some distance, for glass, gun and camera. Returning in fifteen minutes the bird was again flushed; she ran stealthily along where the ground was wet and comparatively bare of vegetation and was presently joined by her mate, twittering weakly from a neighboring weed stalk, who seemed not so averse as the female to searching inspection through the glass. Both were finally shot and carried home with eggs and nest lining.

The eggs are small, about $.65 \times .50$, of grayish-white ground, thickly sprinkled and clouded all over with markings of brown, thickening on the extreme butt into a dark brown zone. The general effect is that of very small eggs of the Savannah Sparrow. One egg, a trifle larger than the rest, shows a bluish-white ground less thickly sprinkled and wholly lacking the clouded appearance of the others, but still exhibiting the well defined zone so symmetrical in all five eggs as to be noticeable. Incubation had progressed about one half, but was not exactly uniform, and one egg was infertile.

Not all the statements of Walter Raine find the widest acceptance, but I am inclined to credit his account of the taking of a nest of this species, as related by him on p. 88, Vol. I, of the 'Nidologist.' At least his description there given corresponds closely with my own observation. I can agree, too, with his statement that the eggs of this species "will never be common in collections." The bird is but a trifle over five inches in length, of sober coloring (except for the bright buff that shows only when in hand), and shy disposition, and if, as seems likely, its nest is habitually located in dreary marshes apart from the haunts of man, its discovery will probably continue rare and the merest accident. I believe the taking of the nest in the United States has not before been recorded.

In photographing this nest and surroundings great pains were taken, but the developed plate shows hopeless overexposure. The eggs are now in the great Norris collection.—EUGENE S. ROLFE, *Minnewaukan, N. Dak.*

Hirondelles de Guanajuato, Mexico.—Vers le 15 février de cette année (1898) sont arrivés par un temps chaud les aviones grandes (*Progne subis*). La chaleur a continué avec quelques journées de pluie, et le 7 mars ont apparu les premières golondrinas (*Chelidon erythrogaster*) ainsi que les aviones chicos (*Petrochelidon lunifrons*). Ces oiseaux passent à Guanajuato le printemps et l'été et y font leurs nids: ils s'en vont vers l'automne, et partent par ordre d'arrivée. *Progne subis* est la première à s'en aller; *Petrochelidon lunifrons* émigre vers la fin de septembre, et un peu plus tard *Chelidon erythrogaster*. J'ai vu ce dernier arriver à Vera Cruz en 1879 vers le milieu de février; un peu plus tard ils étaient à Orizaba, et quelques jours après à Mexico. J'ignore où *Progne* et *Petro-*